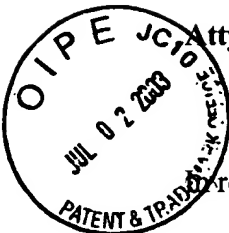


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Atty. Docket: 70015060.0002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re U.S. Patent Application of:

Inventor: BECKI SPEAKMAN

Serial No.: 09/549,445

Filed: April 14, 2000

Title: MASKING APPARATUS AND METHOD

)
) Group Art: 1756
)
) Examiner: Mohamedulla
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 and mailed on the below date of mailing.

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RESPONSE TO JANUARY 27, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

Dear Examiner Mohamedulla:

The Examiner's Office Action, mailed January 27, 2003, has been received and its contents are duly noted. Applicant responds as follows.

A. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 6 (and dependant claims 2-5 and 7-9) because, according to the Examiner, the limitation "regardless of the length of such working surface" is new matter not supported by the original disclosure. Applicant respectfully traverses the